

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

two or more different systems producing electronic data relating to a transaction

5 involving documentation communicated in an electronic form;

processing copies of the electronic data to identify electronic documentation items and at least one key value associated with an electronic documentation item;

using the key value to look up a transaction identifier associated with the transaction;

10 indexing the documentation items according to key value and transaction identifier;

archiving the documentation items in a data storage system or device; and

logging a date and/or time associated with at least some of the documentation items.

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2. A data structure stored in storage medium, comprising:

a transaction specification database that contains specifications and schema for one or more transaction types and key values of each transaction type;

20 a life cycle Index table that contains the key values of the processed transactions and the assigned life cycle IDs for the key values;

an archive database that contains the archived documents or items and their life cycle IDs; and

a log detail database that provides chronological order to transactions by logging and time stamping each transaction parsed.

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3. A system comprising:

a first interface used to couple the system with a first external system producing first electronic data relating to a transaction involving documentation communicated in an electronic form;

30 a second interface used to couple the system with a second external system producing second electronic data relating to the transaction; and

wherein the system is operable to:

process copies of the first and second electronic data to identify electronic documentation items and at least one key value associated with an electronic documentation item;

5           use the key value to look up a transaction identifier associated with the transaction;

              index the documentation items according to key value and transaction identifier;

              archive the documentation items; and

10          log a date and/or time associated with at least some of the documentation items.